

ALASKA FARM REPORTER

Alaska Division of Agriculture
Alaska Cooperative Extension
Ag & Forestry Experiment Station



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ALASKA HIGHLIGHTS

POTATO STOCKS ON HAND IN ALASKA ON MAY 1, 2001 WERE 56 PERCENT BELOW THE MAY 1, 2000 LEVEL.

APRIL 2001 **MILK** PRODUCTION IN ALASKA WAS DOWN 1.9 PERCENT FROM APRIL 2000.

NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

TOTAL CHEESE PRODUCTION FOR 2000, EXCLUDING COTTAGE CHEESE, WAS 8.25 BILLION POUNDS, 4.6 PERCENT ABOVE 1999.

ICE CREAM PRODUCTION FOR 2000 WAS 970 MILLION GALLONS, DOWN 0.3 PERCENT FROM 1999.

U.S. **PRICES PAID** INDEX FOR APRIL WAS UP 1 POINT FROM MARCH 2001 AND 5 POINTS ABOVE APRIL 2000.

U.S. **PRICES RECEIVED** INDEX WAS UP 3.9 POINTS FROM MARCH AND 7 PERCENT FROM APRIL 2000.

POTATO STOCKS

ALASKA: Potato stocks in Alaska on May 1, 2001 were 56 percent below the May 1, 2000 level. Total (bin-run) stocks still on hand, at 43,700 cwt., were 34,300 cwt. less than the 78,000 cwt. on hand a year ago. Disappearance since April 1 totaled 11,300 cwt. Disappearance of potatoes from the start of the harvest to May 1 totaled 85,300 cwt.

15 MAJOR STATES held a record high 111 million cwt. of potatoes on May 1, 2001, up 28 percent from last year and 8 percent above the previous record set May 1, 1997. Potatoes in storage accounted for 24 percent of the 2000 fall storage States' production, up 3 percentage points from a year ago. Disappearance, at a record high 350 million cwt., was up 5 percent from last year and 3 percent above the previous record set during the 1996 season. Potatoes used for processing to May 1 totaled 170 million cwt., up 1 percent from last year in comparable States. April processing of 18.7 million cwt. was 2 percent above last year in comparable States.

WESTERN STATES held 90.0 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on May 1, 2001, up 32 percent from the last year and 36 percent above two years ago. Washington's potato stocks were up 79 percent from a year ago, while Idaho's were up 25 percent. Oregon's stocks were up 11 percent and Montana's swelled 150 percent. Colorado's stocks were equal to last year but California's were down 27 percent.

MILK PRODUCTION

ALASKA: April milk production totaled 1,114,435 pounds, 24,435 pounds above April 2000, and down 5 percent from March 2001. Production per cow, at 1,010 pounds, was down 50 pounds from March 2001 and 110 pounds above April 2000. Milk cows, at 1,100 head, were up 200 head from April 2000.

Production during the four months of 2001 totaled 4,519,562 pounds, compared with 4,040,000 pounds during the same period last year.

SELECTED STATES: Milk production in the 20 major States during April totaled 12.2 billion pounds, down 1.9 percent from April 2000. March revised production, at 12.4 billion pounds, was down 2.3 percent from March 2000. The March revision represented a decrease of 2 million pounds, virtually unchanged from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow, in the 20 major States averaged 1,572 pounds for April, 21 pounds below April 2000.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.74 million head, 45,000 head less than April 2000, and 12,000 head less than March 2001.

DAIRY PRODUCTS

ALASKA: Ice milk production totaled 525,000 gallons in 2000, up from 425,000 a year ago. Production includes soft-serve and freezer-made milk shakes. Most of the mix for these products was manufactured in other States. Ice cream production totaled 53,000 gallons in 2000, up from 46,000 gallons in 1999.

U.S. CROP PRODUCTION

SPRING POTATOES: Program changes for crop year 2000 combine Alabama spring production with the summer estimate and will be published in July. North Carolina combined their spring and summer estimates into the spring forecast. Spring production for 2001 is now forecast at 22.5 million cwt., down 11 percent from the comparable totals of 1999. Harvest should be taken from an estimated 80,100 acres, down 5 percent from last year. The average yield is forecast at 281 cwt. per acre, down 6 percent from last year's comparable yield. The May 1 forecast is 5 percent higher than April.

HAY STOCKS of all hay on farms totaled 21.1 million tons on May 1, 2001, down 27 percent from May 1 of the previous year. This reduction reflects a return to near normal stock levels following last year's near record high. Disappearance of hay from December 1, 2000 - May 1, 2001, totaled 82.6 million tons, 3 percent higher than the 1999-2000 crop disappearance of 80.1 million tons. The increased disappearance was due to severe early winter weather in the northern Plains and Midwest, and a late spring across much of the country.

U.S. AGRICULTURAL PRICES

The April All Farm Products Index for **PRICES RECEIVED** by Farmers was 107 percent of its 1990-92 base, up 3.9 percent from the March index and up 7.0 percent from the April 2000 index.

The April index for **ALL CROPS** was 106, up 8.2 percent from March and 3.9 percent above April 2000. From March, index increases for fruits and nuts, and cotton more than offset index decreases for tobacco, vegetables, and oil-bearing crops.

The April index for **FOOD GRAINS**, at 91, was down 1.1 percent from the previous month, but 7.1 percent above April 2000. The April all wheat price, at \$2.84 per bushel, was down 3 cents from March, but 27 cents above April 2000.

April index for **FEED GRAINS & HAY**, at 90, was unchanged from last month, but 1.1 percent below April 2000. Corn price, at \$1.91 per bushel, was down 4 cents from last month and 12 cents below April 2000. All hay price, at \$94.80 per ton, was \$7.60 above March and \$16.60 above last April. Grain sorghum, at \$3.34 per cwt., was up 5 cents from March and 10 cents above April 2000.

The April index of **PRICES PAID** was 124 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index was up 1 point (0.8 percent) from March and 5 points (4.2 percent) above April 2000. Higher prices in April for feeder cattle, hay and forages, feeder pigs, and self-propelled machinery more than offset lower prices for feed grains, nitrogen fertilizers, insecticides, and gasoline.

U.S. FLORICULTURE UPDATE

Growers posted another large increase in bedding and garden plant production during 2000. The wholesale value of bedding and garden plants totaled \$2.12 billion, 9 percent above a year earlier. The number of growers producing bedding and garden plants was 3,225, down 227 from 1999.

POTTED bedding and garden plants tallied 41.02 billion, representing 48 percent of the category total. This category showed a 24 percent increase for the year. Hardy Garden Mums, Impatiens, Petunias, and Geraniums recorded increases.

HANGING flowering baskets accounted for \$207 million, 10 percent of the bedding and garden total. Hanging flowering basket prices were up for both I. Wallerana Impatiens and New Guinea Impatiens but were lower for Petunias. Overall, the category recorded a 6 percent decline from 1999.

FLATS of bedding and garden plants was off slightly from a year earlier to \$897 million. Flats represented 42 percent of the total value for bedding and garden plants. Average annual prices were up for all surveyed varieties. Impatiens, Vegetable-Type, Petunias, and Pansy/Violas were the top four items in this category and accounted for 41 percent of the total value.

IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURAL ESTIMATES

It would be hard to overestimate the importance of NASS's work or its contribution to U.S. agriculture. Producers, farm organizations, agribusinesses, lawmakers, and government agencies all rely heavily on the information produced by NASS.

Statistical information on acreage, production, stocks, prices, and income is essential for the smooth operation of Federal farm programs. It is also indispensable for planning and administering related Federal and State programs in such areas as consumer protection, conservation and environmental quality, trade, education, and recreation.

ALASKA FARMERS

On May 23rd, we mailed out the **SPRING ACREAGE SURVEY** questionnaires. Most of you should be in full swing of 2001 planting or will have a good idea of your plans for this season. Please take time to fill out the questionnaire and give your best estimates along with your intentions for harvesting hay. Information from this survey will be published in the June Farm Reporter.

Agricultural Statistician

Phone: 907/745-4272 or 1-800-478-6079

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